

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HERNDON MAYOR O'REILLY NAMED
"2005 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR"**
Herndon Times Editors Applaud Leadership, Courage Under Pressure

Herndon, VA (January 20, 2006) – Recognizing his “capable and unwavering leadership and political courage” as well as his hard work on key issues impacting citizens and businesses in the Town of Herndon, the *Herndon Times* has selected Mayor Michael L. O'Reilly as its 2005 Citizen of the Year.

“Mayor O'Reilly led last summer's contentious hearings on a permit allowing a formal day labor hiring site in the Town with unflinching poise, professionalism, purpose and even the occasional joke,” the *Times* editors noted in announcing their selection. Editors also applauded Mayor O'Reilly's initiative and leadership on issues ranging from the investigation and enforcement of occupancy regulations and the rewrite of the Town zoning ordinance to expansion of the Herndon Community Center and the establishment of a nature center at Runnymede Park.

Councilmember Carol A. Bruce, asked by the *Times* for comment on Mayor O'Reilly's selection, said, “He's constantly working behind the scenes... He doesn't feel the need to tell everyone how hard he is working.” Eileen Curtis, president and CEO of the Herndon Dulles Chamber of Commerce, is quoted by the *Times* as saying, “I appreciate people who, like the Mayor, have chosen to do what they perceive to be the right thing.”

The *Herndon Times* Citizen of the Year designation is made annually by editors of the publication in recognition of individuals who have made a significant contribution to the Herndon community. Past recipients include Mukit Hossain, founder of Project Hope & Harmony; Jeanie

Schmidt, founder of the Herndon Free Clinic; and Herndon Vice Mayor Darryl Smith. The paper's circulation is approximately 14,500 and it is distributed throughout the Town.

In November 2005, Mayor O'Reilly was named as the recipient of the 2005 Phyllis Campbell Newsome Public Policy Leadership Award for Virginia by the Center for Nonprofit Advancement, also in recognition of his outstanding leadership during the Town of Herndon's deliberation of the day worker issue.

The Town of Herndon was incorporated by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia on January 14, 1879. Located in western Fairfax County, Herndon is the 3rd largest town in the Commonwealth and is home to more than 22,000 citizens. Businesses located within the Town of Herndon, which range from high tech enterprises to entrepreneurially-owned establishments, employ approximately 23,500 people.

For more information, visit the Town's website at **www.herndon-va.gov**.

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